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Wheelabrator History

Over a Century of Engineering Innovation

YEARS (in bold) denote Wheelabrator history

YEARS (in normal weight) denote DISA shot blast division history

1869 Benjamin Chew Tilghman invents the sand blasting process and patents it in 1870 in the USA (US patent 104,408), detailing many of the applications for which this technique is unique suited such as sharpening files, engraving bottles, cleaning boilers or bringing out the grain in wood. Later that year a patent was issued in the UK

1879 Tilghman opened Tilghman's Patent Sand Blast Co. in Altrincham, UK, which later became Wheelabrator Tilghman, and is the Head Office of Wheelabrator Group today

1908 Homogeneous Sand Mixing Machine Company is founded in Pittsburg, PA, USA by Verne E. Minich. The beginning of what would eventually become Wheelabrator Group

1915 Company name changes to American Foundry Equipment Company

1932 Louis D. Peik (an American Foundry Equipment Company engineer) patents his first blast machine called the "Tumblast"

1933 Louis D. Peik invents the Wheelabrator machine, using the centrifugal force blast wheel. Debuted at the Chicago 1933 World's Fair aptly titled "Century of Progress". Otto Pfaff sells the first Wheelabrator machine to the Benton Harbour Malleable Company in Michigan

1935 Tilghman's (UK) and Berger (Germany) license the rights to build shotblast machines from the American Foundry Equipment (Wheelabrator) Company

1937 Georg Fischer (later DISA) starts production of shot blast machines (license agreement Wheelabrator) from American Foundry Equipment Company

American Foundry becomes a leader in developing and engineering equipment for shot peening during WWII

1943 In just 10 years over 2000 Wheelabrator machines are in use with more on order

1946 American Foundry Equipment Company changes its name to recognise the importance of the Wheelabrator brand to American Wheelabrator & Equipment Company

1950 Introduction of wire and strip descaling machines at George Fischer

1951 In the 1950's, Wheelabrator is the world's largest manufacturer of both airless blast cleaning equipment and steel abrasive and brings many new innovations to the market

1964 American Wheelabrator & Equipment Company changes its name to Wheelabrator Corporation

1964 Wheelabrator becomes publicly owned and traded on the American Stock Exchange, holding 75 percent



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1973 Tilghman's Patent Sand Blasting Company, a licensee of Wheelabrator becomes fully owned by them and becomes **Tilghman Wheelabrator**

1975 Wheelabrator reports consolidated revenues of more than \$332 million of which approximately \$100 million is international revenue

1978 Introduction of continuous tumble through-feed machines for foundry applications at **George Fischer**

1980 George Fischer introduces manipulator machines for cleaning powertrain castings

1986 Acquisition of BMD by DISA

1996 Joint venture between DISA and Georg Fischer Foundry Equipment Division

1994 Wheelabrator buys Sisson Lehmann

1996 Wheelabrator Corporation is purchased by United States Filter Corporation becomes **USF Surface Preparation Group**

1997 Gutmann, Pangborn Europe and Spencer Halstead become members of the **USF Surface Preparation Group** Wheelabrator Canada purchases BCP and amalgamated operations at USFilter/Wheelabrator Canada Schlick opens a sales office in Prague to attend to the Czech Republic and Slovakian markets

1998 Vacu-Blast, Abrasive Developments and Schlick are acquired by **USF Surface Preparation Group**

2000 New DISA Group founded [acquisition of shares held by Georg Fischer

2003 International Surface Preparation Corporation (ISPC) a newly formed company acquire United States Filter Corporation's Surface Preparation Group

2006 ISPC becomes Wheelabrator Group

2005 DISA Group acquired by Procintas

2007 Launch of **TITAN wheel**, TITAN wins an Innovation Award from Eurofinish

2008 100 years of Wheelabrator!

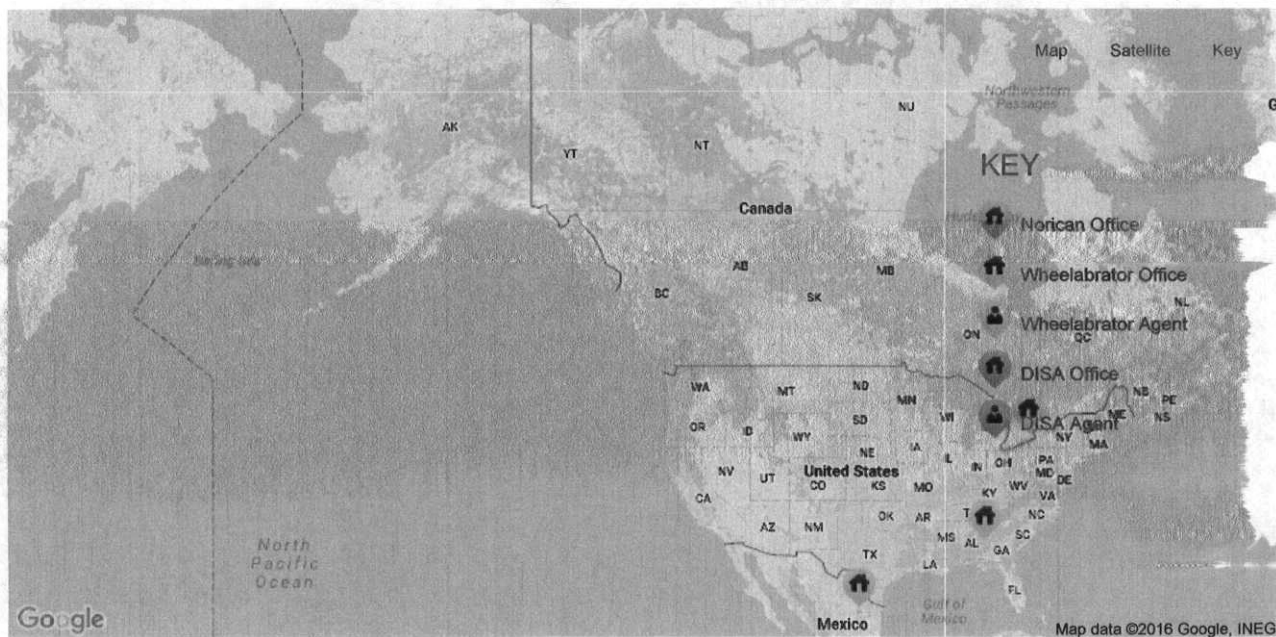
2009 Wheelabrator merges with DISA, a world leader in foundry equipment The moulding sand and core technologies retain the brand DISA whilst the DISA shotblasting range is rebranded Wheelabrator

2011 The company's new website is launched!

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Worldwide



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